

Claims:

Claim 1-18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent comprising:

an unexpanded configuration; and

an elongated tubular body formed of wire, said wire defining a plurality of waves arranged in longitudinally spaced windings along the length of said body, the windings being non-overlappingly spaced at a pitch that is less than two times the amplitude of adjacent waves;

the windings including a first winding and a second winding, the first winding being longitudinally adjacent to the second winding, at least a portion of the first winding being in direct contact with at least a portion of the second winding when the stent is in the unexpanded configuration.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 19 wherein said wire include a single continuous, helically wound wire forming said windings.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 19 further including a membrane covering supported by said tubular body.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 19 wherein said tubular body is expandable.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 19 wherein said spacings between said windings are uniform along the length of said tubular body.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) An intraluminal stent of claim 19 wherein said spacing between said windings varies along the length of said tubular body.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent comprising:

an unexpanded configuration; and

an elongate tubular wire-formed body, the wire forming said body being configured into a plurality of waves, each wave of said plurality having a wave peak and a pair of leg segments extending from said peak, said waves being arranged in spaced non-overlapping longitudinal succession such that the peak of one said waves is nested within the next adjacent longitudinally successive wave, at least portions of at least two longitudinally successive waves being in direct contact with one another when the stent is in the unexpanded configuration.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein said leg segments of each pair are of generally equal length.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein at least one wave includes leg segments of unequal length.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein each of said waves include leg segments of generally uniform unequal length.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein said plurality of waves are non-overlappingly spaced at a pitch that is less than two times the amplitude of adjacent waves.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein said tubular body includes plural wire windings formed into a pattern defining said waves.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein said windings are uniformly spaced apart.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 26 wherein said wire windings are formed by a single continuous, helically wound wire.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent comprising:

an unexpanded configuration; and

an elongate wire-formed tubular body, said wire-formed body defining a plurality of longitudinally adjacent spaced waves, said longitudinally adjacent spaced waves being non-overlappingly nested, at least portions of at least two longitudinally adjacent spaced waves being in direct contact with one another when the stent is in the unexpanded configuration.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 34 wherein said amplitude of said waves is generally uniform.

Claim 36. (Withdrawn) An intraluminal stent of claim 35 wherein said amplitude of said waves varies along the length of said tubular body.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn) An intraluminal stent of claim 36 wherein said amplitude of said waves at a central location of said tubular body is greater than said amplitude of the waves at the ends thereof.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent comprising:

an unexpanded configuration; and

an elongate tubular body being formed of wire having a pattern defining a plurality of spaced apart successively formed waves along the length thereof, said successively formed waves being non-overlappingly longitudinally nested, at least portions of at least two longitudinally successive waves being in direct contact with one another when the stent is in the unexpanded configuration.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 38 wherein said pattern is sinusoidal.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 39 wherein said pattern is triangular.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 38 wherein said pattern defines a plurality of continually repeating waves.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) An intraluminal stent of claim 41 wherein said continually repeating waves are uniform.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) A intraluminal stent of claim 41 wherein said continually repeating waves include at least one non-uniform wave.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) A method of forming an intraluminal stent comprising the steps of:
 forming a wire into a wave-like pattern, said pattern defining a plurality of wire waves; and
 arranging said formed wire so as to place said wire waves in spaced longitudinally nested succession forming a generally tubular body.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 44 wherein said forming step includes forming a single wire to have a plurality of continuous wire waves.

Claim 46. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 45 wherein said arranging step includes:
 helically winding said formed single wire.

Claim 47. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 46 wherein said helically winding step includes:
 providing a cylindrical mandrel; and
 helically winding said formed single wire about said mandrel.

Claim 48. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 45 wherein said forming step further includes:
 providing a pair of gears having intermeshed teeth; and
 moving said wire through said teeth of said gears so as to form said continuous wire waves.